

**Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
150 Wakefield Street, Suite 12, Conference Room 1A
Rochester, NH 03867**

Meeting Minutes

**Friday, Dec. 7, 2018
9 – 11 a.m.**

The meeting was called to order with a quorum at 9:04 a.m.

1. Introductions

Committee Members Present: Michael Bobinsky (Somersworth), Linda Dusenberry (NHDOT), Marcia Gasses (Barrington), Michael Hoffman (Newmarket), Jon Hotchkiss (Middleton), Scott Kinmond (New Durham), Chris Parker (Dover), Steve Pesci (UNH), Dianne Smith (Brookfield), Elizabeth Strachan (NHDES), Michael Williams (COAST)

Staff Members Present: Jennifer Czysz (executive director), Colin Lentz (senior transportation planner), Rachel Dewey (planner)

2. Staff Communications

J. Czysz and C. Lentz described the previous night's SRPC Commission meeting, which focused on mobility and accessibility in downtown areas for seniors and people with disabilities.

3. Action Item(s)

3.1. Minutes from Nov. 2, 2018 [VOTE]

C. Parker moved to approve the minutes from Nov. 2

Seconded by J. Hotchkiss

Vote: unanimous in favor

3.2. Annual Listing of Obligated Projects

S. Pesci said it is important to remember that even if funds are reported as "obligated" to a project, it does not necessarily mean that the project is moving forward. He emphasized the need for members to do everything possible to help municipally managed projects move forward in a timely manner. This is extremely important due to the upcoming end of the FAST Act in 2020.

M. Bobinsky asked for details on funding for a transportation demand management program. C. Lentz explained that the funding supported Seacoast CommuteSMART, which promoted alternative transportation modes (such as public transit, biking, walking, and carpooling) in the seacoast. He added that the program was also funded through the turnpike expansion project at Newington-Dover to mitigate congestion during construction.

D. Smith asked if it would be possible to review the state of project funding obligations in July 2019 as a way of tracking project progress because of the possible rescission of federal dollars at the end of the

FAST Act in 2020. C. Parker suggested the need to also work with the state's congressional delegation to avoid a rescission and ensure that a replacement transportation authorization bill is developed.

C. Parker moved to accept the 2018 Annual Listing of Obligated projects

Seconded by M. Bobinsky

Vote: unanimous in favor

4. Discussion Items

4.1. Draft Ten Year Plan project ranking

C. Lentz reviewed the process for submitting candidate Ten Year Plan projects. He presented a list of candidate projects that had been selected by the project development sub-committee. He explained that TAC members had weighted the project scoring criteria and he had used their weightings to generate a preliminary ranking of the candidate projects. C. Lentz asked for the TAC's review and approval of the candidate list in order to get the projects to NHDOT for scoping review and cost estimates. The full TAC will have another opportunity prior to the May 1 deadline to review the projects and rank them using the weighted scoring criteria. C. Lentz said he will compile information (such as location, traffic volume, crash history, etc.) for each project to be submitted.

S. Pesci emphasized the need for a very rough cost estimate for each project that NHDOT could refine or verify. C. Lentz agreed and said he would work with project sponsors to refine project cost estimates.

J. Czysz said that projects on the list may need to be given different priority because NHDOT cannot develop estimates for projects beyond the region's theoretical highway funding allocation.

S. Pesci asked that several requests be included with the Ten Year Plan project list that would not compete with the highway funded projects:

- Transit fleet replacement due to UNH's reliance on grants for capital replacement.
- Investment in the Boston-Maine rail corridor
 - Specific need for improvements to highway/rail grade crossings.
- Confirming the need for intersection improvements at Madbury Road and NH 155 in Madbury (the need for acceleration of this project).
- Confirming the need for safety improvements at the intersection of Madbury Road and US 4 in Durham.

C. Lentz said he would include those projects and priorities with the new candidate projects.

M. Bobinsky asked what decision was needed from the TAC regarding the list. C. Lentz said the list would need to be reduced to a refined set of priorities.

S. Pesci suggested removing several projects from consideration in order to refine the list:

- #6 – a park and ride lot in Milton.
- #7 – a park and ride lot in New Durham.
- #11 – Dover soundwalls (to be included in a separate list).

S. Pesci said project #5 (Northwood US 4 turning lane) needed to be much more carefully defined before it could be included on the candidate list.

M. Gasses asked about the Dover soundwall project at Exit 7 off the Spaulding Turnpike. This came up in discussion of potential funding sources for the project. Local CIP funds have been programmed for the project, which is a prerequisite for one of the potential funding sources.

C. Lentz explained that the project would not affect highway funding for other projects, but it needed to be included in the Ten Year Plan to be eligible for the Type II soundwalls program.

M. Williams emphasized the need for future Ten Year Plan rounds to consider park and rides on sections of the highway network already at capacity for traffic. Members discussed possible locations for future park and ride lots along major corridors.

C. Lentz asked for confirmation of the list of candidate projects. Members discussed the list of projects and agreed that the list submitted to NHDOT should include the following projects:

Rochester	Intersection sequence of Charles St/NH 125 (Columbus Ave)/Old Dover Rd
Dover	130/099 NH Route 108 over Bellamy
Somersworth	W. High Street –south side: (Cemetery Road to High Street) High Street –west side: (High Street to Memorial Drive)
Dover	Chestnut St
Northwood	School St (107) & US 4/US 202 Intersection
Dover	Oak St bridge over RR
Rochester	NH125/Columbus Ave. bridge over Cocheco

The Dover soundwalls project was included in a list separate from the highway-funded Ten Year Plan projects.

5. Project Updates

5.1. Travel Demand Model

C. Lentz said that, because of a recent court ruling on a case that started in California, New Hampshire’s MPOs would not be required to prove that they are in compliance with the 1997 air quality standards. The MPOs had been updating their models to conduct air quality analyses that would be required before the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) could be updated. C. Lentz said staffers were continuing to update the travel demand model so it could be used as a planning tool in the near future.

5.2. Decision maker communications

C. Lentz said he will generate draft language for a resolution emphasizing the need for communication on the impact of the rescission of federal dollars at the end of the FAST Act in 2020. The committee discussed the importance of having close relationships with congressional and state representatives. C. Lentz will pay attention to state legislature committee assignments so there may be direct communications about transportation-related issues. SRPC will also monitor U.S. Rep.-elect Chris Pappas’ committee assignments in order to establish contact regarding transportation issues.

6. Other Business

S. Pesci asked the status of this year's traffic count data collection and when last year's data may be available on the NHDOT web database. R. Dewey responded that all but two 2018 count assignments were completed; two counts were rejected. She added that all of the 2017 counts should be on the MS2 site, but she will check in with NHDOT staff to confirm.

M. Gasses asked when SRPC would begin taking additional traffic count location requests from the towns. R. Dewey responded that supplemental traffic count location requests can be taken at any time. Stefanie Casella, data collection and analysis assistant, will receive NHDOT data collection assignments in early 2019 and will send letters to all towns noting the assigned locations and asking whether they want to add locations to the list. Traffic data collection will resume when the last snow melts in the spring.

M. Williams reminded members that COAST is conducting a comprehensive operations analysis to plan for future improvements to the COAST transit network. He said there is a survey out and encouraged members to fill it out. The survey is available on the COAST website under the "Our Future" tab.

7. Citizen's Forum – Citizens of the Strafford region are invited to speak on the subject matter of the meeting. Statements shall be limited to three minutes

No citizens brought forward comments at the meeting

8. Adjournment

J. Hotchkiss moved to adjourn
Seconded by M. Hoffman
The meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

Approved by
Name Printed: Michael Williams
Signed: 
Date: 2/1/19